

SERMON NOTES:

Formed By... | *What is forming you - and who are you becoming?*

Part 4: The Courage to be Known

BIG Idea: God forms and heals us as we courageously bring our real lives into trustworthy Christian relationships—and as we become trustworthy people who help others experience that same grace.

Application: To be fully known is to abandon shame, shun favoritism, and refuse to let offense against one another take hold in our hearts.

Join us as we read the Bible together in 2026.

<https://bit.ly/ReadwithMe26>

1 Peter 5:8-9 (NLT)

8 Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. 9 Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your family of believers all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are.

A healthy church is not a place where no one struggles; it is a place where no one has to struggle alone.

James 5:13–16 (NLT)

13 Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray. Are any of you happy? You should sing praises.

14 Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven.

16 Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

We want to reap the full benefits of belonging without counting the full cost of being known.

Being known is not the final goal. The goal is becoming more whole and mature in Christ.

Genesis 3:7–10 (NLT)

7 At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves. 8 When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the LORD God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the LORD God among the trees. 9 Then the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

10 He replied, “I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked.”

Healing begins where hiding ends.

1 John 1:9 (NLT)

9 But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

James 2:1-4 (NLT)

1 My dear brothers and sisters, how can you claim to have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ if you favor some people over others? 2 For example, suppose someone comes into your meeting dressed in fancy clothes and expensive jewelry, and another comes in who is poor and dressed in dirty clothes.

3 If you give special attention and a good seat to the rich person, but you say to the poor one, "You can stand over there, or else sit on the floor" - well, 4 doesn't this discrimination show that your judgments are guided by evil motives?

James 2:9 (NLT)

9 But if you favor some people over others, you are committing a sin. You are guilty of breaking the law. What we justify as preference, favoritism exposes as prejudice. The courage to be known must be met by the grace and maturity to know others well.

Galations 6:2-3 (NLT)

2 Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ. 3 If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself. You are not that important.

Proverbs 18:19 (NLT)

19 An offended friend is harder to win back than a fortified city. Arguments separate friends like a gate locked with bars. Offense slams shut the door of fellowship and puts us in a prison of our own making.

Proverbs 17:9 (NLT)

9 Love prospers when a fault is forgiven, but dwelling on it separates close friends.

James 5:19-20 (NLT)

19 My dear brothers and sisters, if someone among you wanders away from the truth and is brought back, 20 you can be sure that whoever brings the sinner back from wandering will see that person from death and bring about the forgiveness of many sins.